

Message Text

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ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

----- 116859 /61

O 131258Z DEC 76

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE NIACT 4163

S E C R E T GENEVA 9867

NODIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y-TEXT PARA 2 LINES 12 & 13

FOR AMB SCHAUFLE FROM WISNER

DEPT PASS LONDON FOR SEITZ

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR RH UK

SUBJ: RHODESIA CONFERENCE: RICHARD'S MEETING WITH IAN SMITH

1. RICHARD RETURNED TO GENEVA EARLY DEC 12 IN ORDER TO MEET WITH SMITH. SMITH, FLANKED BY HIS DELEGATION, CALLED ON RICHARD IN THE AFTERNOON AND OPENED IN A BAD-TEMPERED MANNER, REFERRING REPEATEDLY TO MISTREATMENT, HUMILIATION AND HAVING BEEN MISLED. HE CALMED DOWN AND ASKED RICHARD WHAT VIEWS HE HAD ON THE RECESS AND WHAT WERE THE CONCLUSIONS OF THE DISCUSSIONS IN LONDON. RICHARD TOLD SMITH IN CONFIDENCE THAT HE WOULD RECESS THE CONFERENCE ON TUESDAY, DEC 14, AND WOULD AIM TO RECONVENE ABOUT JAN 16 OR 17. DURING THE RECESS, HE INTENDED TO VISIT AFRICA AND CONSULT WITH THE FRONT LINE PRESIDENTS, THE NATIONALISTS AND THE RHODESIANS ON A COMPROMISE SETTLEMENT. SMITH RESTATED HIS OBJECTIONS TO GENEVA AND SAID THAT HE PREFERRED THE NEXT ROUND OF THE CONFERENCE CONVENE IN RHODESIA. WHEN RICHARD POINTED OUT THIS WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE, SMITH SUGGESTED LONDON. THE BRITISH PRESSED GENEVA BUT ASKED IF THERE WAS ANY OTHER AFRICAN SITE ACCEPTABLE TO SMITH. SMITH RULED OUT NAIROBI BUT SAID THAT THERE WERE A NUMBER OF AFRICAN SITES WHICH
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HAD EXPRESSED AN INTEREST, AND "THERE WERE SOME FIRM OFFERS" WHICH WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO HIM. HE APPEARED, TO THE BRITISH, TO BE SPEAKING MORE FOR THE RECORD THAN ARGUING SERIOUSLY FOR A NEW VENUE.

2. RICHARD WAS CAREFUL NOT TO BE DRAWN INTO ANY DISCUSSIONS OF ALTERNATIVES TO THE PRESENT FRAMEWORK FOR A SETTLEMENT. HE SAID THAT THE BRITISH HAVE CONCLUDED FROM THE NEGOTIATIONS SO FAR THAT THE SORT OF COUNCIL OF STATE REFERRED TO IN POINT 3 OF THE FIVE POINTS AND ANNEX C WOULD NOT BE SALEABLE TO THE NATIONALISTS BECAUSE THEY ARE CONVINCED, RIGHTLY OR WRONGLY, THE MECHANISM OF THE COUNCIL OF STATE WOULD BE USED TO BLOCK TRANSITION TO MAJORITY RULE. THE BRITISH ACCEPTED THERE WERE LEGITIMATE ANXIETIES ON THE PART OF RHODESIAS EUROPEAN COMMUNITY WHICH THE COUNCIL OF STATE AND ANNEX C WERE DESIGNED TO MEET. RICHARD SAID THAT IT WAS HIS INTENTION DURING THE RECESS TO EXAMINE THE ANXIETIES OF BOTH SIDES AND SEE HOW THESE COULD BE RECONCILED.

3. REFERRING TO CROSLAND'S PARLIAMENTARY STATEMENT, RICHARD POINTED OUT THAT THE BRITISH WERE PREPARED TO PLAY SOME SORT OF DIRECT ROLE AND WERE LOOKING INTO HOW THIS SUBJECT COULD BE DISCUSSED. HE ASKED SMITH IF HE WOULD BE WILLING TO CONSIDER NEW PROPOSALS. SMITH SAID THAT HE WOULD, BUT THAT HE WOULD HAVE TO LOOK AT THEM CAREFULLY. HE ADDED THAT THE CONFERENCE HAD BEEN CONVENED ON THE BASIS OF THE FIVE POINTS AND, FOR THE PRESENT, COULD ONLY BE RECONVENED ON THE SAME BASIS. HE WARNED RICHARD THAT "YOU CAN'T PICK AND CHOOSE FROM A CONTRACT. IF YOU EXTRACT ONLY SOME ELEMENT OF THE CONTRACT, IT COLLAPSES AND A NEW ONE MUST BE NEGOTIATED." IF THE BRITISH ADVANCE A PROPOSAL DIFFERENT FROM THE ONE WHICH BROUGHT HIM TO GENEVA IN THE FIRST PLACE, HE WOULD HAVE TO RECONSIDER HIS POSITION CAREFULLY AND IN CONSULTATIONS WITH HIS COLLEAGUES IN RHODESIA.

4. SMITH TOLD RICHARD THAT IT WAS HIS INTENTION TO
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ENCOURAGE THE FORMATION OF A NEW "MODERATE" AFRICAN GROUP IN RHODESIA AND SAID THAT IF THIS HAPPENED, HE WOULD EXPECT THE BRITISH TO INVITE THE NEW ORGANIZATION TO A RECONVENED CONFERENCE. RICHARD MADE NO COMMITMENTS.

5. I BRIEFED RICHARD ON THE EVENTS OF THE WEEKEND AND TOLD HIM OF MY PLANS TO MEET CHONA. I TOLD HIM

THAT WE HAD CONCLUDED A MORE SOBER MOOD PERTAINED IN THE FRONT LINE STATES AND REMINDED HIM HOW ESSENTIAL IT WAS TO DEVELOP A PACKAGE WHICH COULD BE SOLD TO THE RHODESIANS. RICHARD APPEARED MORE SENSITIVE TO THE NEEDS OF PRESENTING A PROPOSITION WHICH WOULD CARRY IN PRETORIA

AND SALISBURY THAN AT ANY TIME I HAVE DISCUSSED THE
SUBJECT WITH HIM IN THE PAST. HE TOLD ME THAT HE
HAD SEEN SALIM OF TANZANIA THIS MORNING AND HAD QUITE
STERNLY WARNED SALIM THE AFRICANS MUST REALIZE
REALITIES AND THE NEED TO COOPERATE IN THE DEVELOPMENT
OF PROPOSALS WHICH THE RHODESIANS COULD ACCEPT.
RICHARD WELCOMED MY MEETING WITH CHONA AND URGED
ME TO PROCEED. CATTO

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 16 SEP 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, INTERIM GOVERNMENT, INDEPENDENCE, PFOR RH UK, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, NEGOTIATIONS, CAT-B
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: saccheem
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976GENEVA09867
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 XGDS-1
Errors: n/a
Film Number: P840099-0740
From: GENEVA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761293/baaaesfm.tel
Line Count: 119
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: saccheem
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17 MAY 2004 by woolflhd>; APPROVED <07 SEP 2004 by saccheem>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: LOCK1
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RHODESIA CONFERENCE: RICHARD'S MEETING WITH IAN SMITH
TAGS: PFOR, PEPR, RH, UK, (RICHARD, IVOR), (SMITH, IAN)
To: STATE NIACT
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006